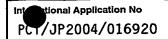
## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H01L21/311

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 HO1L

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, INSPEC

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Х	US 6 511 608 B1 (MORI MASAHITO ET AL) 28 January 2003 (2003-01-28) the whole document	1-12
X	US 6 197 151 B1 (OTSUBO TORU ET AL) 6 March 2001 (2001-03-06) column 12, line 25 - column 4; figure 1 column 19, line 58 - column 22 column 27, line 10 - line 21; figure 30 -/	1-12

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents:      A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance      E* earlier document but published on or after the international filling date      L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)      O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means      P* document published prior to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed	<ul> <li>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</li> <li>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</li> <li>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</li> <li>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</li> </ul>
Date of the actual completion of the international search  19 January 2005	Date of mailing of the international search report  02/02/2005
Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Szarowski, A

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Internal Application No PCT/JP2004/016920

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